

Glenda Wiles

From: Gavin Ricklefs [bitterrootlaw@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, July 20, 2007 11:35 AM
To: Glenda Wiles
Subject: Lost Horse Rock Quarry



Lost Horse Quarry
Opposition.d...

Commissioners:

I have attached a copy of a letter sent to Acting Forest Supervisor, Barry Paulson, and Darby District Ranger, Chuck Oliver, regarding the proposed Lost Horse Rock Quarry.

Please consider this letter my comment in opposition of re-opening the Lost Horse Rock Quarry to mining activity.

Respectfully,

/s/ Gavin Ricklefs

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JUL 20 2007

Ravalli County Commissioners

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July 20, 2007

Chuck Oliver, District Ranger
Darby Ranger Station
P.O. Box 388
Darby, MT 59828

RE: Opposition to Proposed Lost Horse Quarry

Dear Mr. Oliver,

This letter serves as my strong opposition to the proposed re-opening of the Lost Horse Quarry on the Bitterroot National Forest. Re-opening the quarry would severely limit recreational enjoyment of this unique area, and create serious safety concerns for all users of the Lost Horse corridor.

The climbing community has, no doubt, been vocal in pointing out the extraordinary quality of both rock and routes in or adjacent to the Lost Horse Quarry. This is a world-class climbing area and one of the best in the State of Montana. Re-opening the quarry would ruin the climbing aesthetic and create a dangerous situation for climbers accessing existing routes.

Furthermore, the Lost Horse corridor provides a unique point of access for all users of the Bitterroot National Forest. It is the only road proximate to a population center that allows vehicular access to the high country of the Selway-Bitterroot. Indeed, it is the only artery leading directly into the heart of the Wilderness' high elevation backcountry. As such, the Lost Horse corridor is a heavily used area for numerous recreational pursuits: Hiking, fishing, four-wheeling, hunting, bouldering, photography, etc.

The industrial traffic caused by re-opening the Lost Horse Quarry would greatly increase the risk of accidents on this heavily used, winding, and narrow roadway. Moreover, such industrial traffic would add to congestion, making it more difficult for all recreational users to access the high country of the Selway-Bitterroot.

Surely, there is accessible rock, capable of being mined, elsewhere on the Bitterroot National Forest. I strongly urge the Forest Service to locate any such quarry in an area without the one-of-a-kind features of the Lost Horse corridor. This is a special area that should be managed for its unique recreational attributes.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Gavin Ricklefs

cc:

Barry Paulson
Acting Forest Supervisor, Bitterroot National Forest
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Hamilton, MT 59840

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